Number of people below Poverty Line

†1120. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people Below Poverty Line in the country after the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the total reduction in the number of people Below Poverty Line likely to be realized after the Tenth Five Year Plan in the country;

(c) whether most of the people Below Poverty Line are in States like Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) whether Government is considering any special scheme for reducing the number of poor in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of people Below Poverty Line at National and State level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the Expert Group Methodology. The Tenth Five Year Plan ends in 2006-07. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 2004-05 (estimated from the NSS consumer expenditure data of the 61st Round). As such, the estimate of the number of people living below the poverty line in the country after the Tenth Five Year Plan is not available. The total reduction in the number of people below poverty line likely to be realized after the Tenth Five Year Plan in the country has not been estimated.

(c) and (d) As per the latest estimate of poverty available for the year 2004-05, out of the 3017.2 lakh persons living below the poverty line in the country, 1254.1 lakh live in Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty; (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset building for the poor. A number of programmes/schemes have been introduced by the Government from time to time to improve the conditions of the people living below the poverty line in rural and urban areas in the country, including Orissa. Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Unsolicited calls by sales promoters

1121. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received complaints against unsolicited calls being made at odd hours by sales promoters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to stop this menace?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a number of complaints regarding unsolicited commercial calls being received from sales promoters, Banks & Telecom companies etc.

(c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Regulation on "The Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations, 2007" dated 5th June, 2007 for putting a mechanism called "National Do Not Call" (NDNC) Registry for curbing the unwanted telemarketing calls. The same has become operational *w.e.f.* 12.10.2007.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has also issued detailed guidelines dated 6.6.2007 for registration of telemarketers. The consumers who do not wish to receive such calls and register their request with service provider, shall get relief from the commercial calls which are originated by such telemarketers who are registered with NDNC Registry.

Four-Laning of NHs in Orissa

†1122. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Highways passing through Orissa for whose development the State Government has requested to Central Government;

(b) the total number of these National Highways and the details of their stretches;

(c) the steps taken by the Centre in this regard on request of the State Government and the Chief Minister;

(d) the total number of pending proposals regarding four-laning and construction of by-pass in the State, so far;

(e) whether there is any proposal of four-laning of National Highway No. 42 stretching from Manguli to Sambalpur; and

(f) if so, by when work on it would commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Out of total 15 National Highways (NHs) passing through the State of Orissa, for development and maintenance of NH 5 (Balasore to Jharpokharia section), 6, 23, 42, 43, 75E, 200, 201, 203, 203A, 215, 217 & 224 have been entrusted to State Public Works Department and remaining NHs, namely, NH-5(from Icchapuram to Balasore section), NH-5A & NH 60 to National Highways Authority of India. Development of National Highways is a continuous process and works are taken on the basis of their *inter-se* priority and availability of Funds.

(c) The allocation under the head National Highway (Original) works has been increased from Rs. 85.0 crore to Rs. 130.0 crore for the year 2007-08.

(d) No proposal is pending.

(e) and (f) Provision for Feasibility study and preparation of Detailed Project Report for 4 - laning of Manguli to Angul section of NH-42 has been kept in current year Annual Plan.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.